

Date Mailed November 19, 2002

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Belmont Telephone Company, Inc., That it
Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

450-TR-103

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

THIS IS AN INVESTIGATION opened in response to the notification received on October 14, 2002, from Belmont Telephone Company (Belmont, or applicant), that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Belmont exchange in Lafayette County.

Rate increases are proposed for residential local service and for Caller ID and some custom calling features. Belmont proposes to increase residential and business rates by approximately 30 percent. The proposed rate for residential service is \$12.15. A copy of the applicant's notification is available on the commission's website at:
http://www.psc.state.wi.us/telecom/cases/rec_apps/recentap.htm.

Belmont mailed notice of this proposal to its customers on October 25, 2002. Under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective January 1, 2003, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission may investigate this matter under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 87 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this matter or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

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Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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